

and natural condition; nor will the system, in all probability, be found affected; no altered state of health sufficient to account for the dimness of vision will be found to exist. At some kinds of employment it is necessary for the individual to work with the head bent forwards, declining, or the body so distorted as to favour the too liberal flow to the eye, and retard its return; inducing what is termed congestion; a distended state of vessels, unfavourable to free and active circulation; a condition of eye which is also frequently induced by the investigation of minute objects by the aid of powerful glasses. Loss or diminution of the power of vision sometimes comes on from certain causes which diminish the vigour of the system generally; as for instance, after profuse salivation, long-continued suckling, menorrhagia, &c. In all these cases, I believe, the strychnine is calculated to produce great and permanent advantage, in combination, of course, with other remedies suited to the particular exigencies of the case; for example, if the retina be weakened in consequence of diminished vigour of the system, remedies adapted to strengthen the system, and a removal of the cause enfeebling it, might be joined to the local application of the remedy in question. But the power of the retina will not always return with the returning strength of the system; in such cases the strychnine is singularly valuable, producing, with wonderful rapidity, the restoration of the organ of vision. Strychnine given internally does not produce the same beneficial effect upon the retina, as when applied externally. The mode of using it is already before the profession. After having tried it in a variety of ways, and in different situations, I have not been able to discover a better method than that of blistering the skin above the eyebrow, and, after having carefully removed the cuticle, I sprinkle the powder upon the raw surface, taking care to pass a spatula upon the part so sprinkled, to secure it against removal and insure its absorption; a piece of linen, (not greased,) should afterwards be bound upon the part. The quantity with which I generally commenced is the twelfth of a grain upon each side, daily augmenting the quantity as the patient is enabled to bear it, until it amounts to two-thirds of a grain upon each blistered surface. Its first effects are, slight pain in the head, increased power of vision, and severe smarting pain of the part upon which it is applied. Some patients cannot bear its application; others require great care and a very gradual augmentation of the quantity to enable them to bear it; whilst others will admit of its application without experiencing any other uneasiness than what arises from its action upon the sore. It is not necessary, I presume, to detail cases in support of my views; such a plan would greatly extend my observations, which I have been studiously anxious to limit. I will now for a short time, draw the attention of your readers to those cases in which the employment of this remedy would be useless or injurious. If the amaurosis be dependent on any morbid condition of the brain; any alteration of the bony structure; any tumour or other substance pressing upon the optic nerve, the effects of former inflammation, such as opaque deposition or partial disorganization, the effusion of blood or morbid growths, the enlargement of the vitreous or displacement of the crystalline humour, producing pressure upon the retina; a varicose state of vessels, as a consequence of distention so continued as to impair their tonic and elastic properties; inflammation of, or disease of, those parts incased by, or anterior to the retina—no benefit could be expected to result from the use of strychnine; but, on the contrary, in many of the cases, material injury might succeed its employment."

47. *Spiritus Terebinthinæ in Inflammation of the Internal Tissues of the Eye.*—In our fifth volume, p. 505, we mentioned that Mr. Guthrie had treated upwards of thirty cases of inflammation of the internal tissues of the eye with complete success, by the oleum terebinthinæ. R. MIDDLEMORE, Esq. assistant surgeon to the Birmingham Eye Infirmary has since employed it also, with great advantage. "If a patient with iritis," says the latter gentleman, "from extreme delicacy or peculiarity of constitution, be unable to take mercury to

the production of salivation, or if, having taken it, the acute symptoms only be removed, and a chronic disorganizing inflammation remain, I should strongly recommend the administration of turpentine in small doses, say a drachm two or three times a day; the early employment of turpentine I would also urgently advise in inflammation of the choroid and retina."—*The Midland Medical and Surgical Reporter*, May, 1830.

48. *Precautions in the Operation for Cataract.*—A considerable number of cases of cataract have been operated upon during the present season by M. Dupuytren, at the Hôtel Dieu. Depression is the method almost exclusively adopted by him; and in performing this he has the patient placed in bed, and laid on the back, the head being conveniently supported and fixed. By these means he thinks that accidents from the movements of the patient are best guarded against, as well as those which may occur in transporting him from the operating chair back to his bed. One of the inconveniences which M. Dupuytren has most frequently met with in operating for cataract, with the patient sitting up in a chair, is syncope, a circumstance which proves extremely embarrassing to the surgeon. Last spring, M. Dupuytren was called by M. Husson to a patient who had been operated on for cataract a long time before, and who felt some inconvenience in one of his eyes. The operation had consisted in extraction, and had only been performed on one eye. The patient had been placed in a chair, and scarcely had the surgeon finished the section of the transparent cornea, when he fainted so profoundly that the operation could not be completed; the lens remained in its place, the wound healed, and some months after the other eye was operated upon by the same surgeon. The method of extraction was adopted on this occasion also; the patient was again placed on a chair, and syncope came on as before, giving rise to very great difficulty and embarrassment. M. Dupuytren was called to him on account of very violent pain which he experienced in the eye which had been incompletely operated on.

Tendency to vomit, and actual vomiting are, as is well known, very frequent after operations for cataract, particularly in children. One of the best methods of removing this, consists in making them drink a few cups of seltzer water.—*London Medical Gazette*, May, 1830, from the *Journ. Hebdom.*

49. *Strychnine as a remedy for Ptosis.*—MR. MIDDLEMORE has found the strychnine of singular service in one case of ptosis, dependent on partial paralysis of the levator muscle. Of course, in ptosis arising from disease of the brain, or any deep-seated or structural injury of the motor nerve, or a thickened and enlarged condition of the eye-lid, it could be of no value.—*Midland Medical and Surgical Reporter*, May, 1830.

50. *Strumous Iritis.* By RICHARD MIDDLEMORE, Esq.—Strumous iritis is a disease somewhat uniform in its appearance and history, obstinate in duration, and very little influenced by the modes of treatment usually recommended for its cure. The individuals most obnoxious to its attacks, are children, between the ages of six and eighteen; of a delicate constitution, fair complexion, light hair, and blue eyes; as soon as the disease has become established, the cornea assumes a misty appearance, patches of red vessels are frequently seen upon its edge; there is a zone of pink vessels around the cornea in various situations; the patient is troubled with profuse lachrymation, and great intolerance of light; the iris is almost inactive, and vision is considerably impaired; the eyebrow appears to project considerably before the eye; the muscles, (if one eye only be affected,) become thicker and stronger than those of the opposite side, from their powerful contraction to exclude the light, and give to the countenance a distorted appearance; the pulse is generally quick and irritable; the appetite uncertain; the secretions unhealthy; the skin dry and harsh, but variable in temperature; the heat of the scalp being oppressively great, whilst the